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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 21 Oct. 1949

SUBJECT Attempt by USIA to Sell Contents of Six Warehouses

NO. OF PAGES 2

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. Through Erwin Brecher, [REDACTED] the iron and steel section of the Directorate of USIA is attempting to line up an American or British purchaser for the contents of six large warehouses located at Wiener-Neudorf. 25X1X
2. According to Brecher, the contents of these warehouses are worth from four to six million dollars at this time; they include the following items: 18 freight locomotives in running condition; large quantities of electrolytic copper; aluminum in rods and sheets; hematite; copper wire; machine tools; printing presses; cast iron, drainage, and steel pipes; boilers of various capacities; steam turbine generator sets; industrial transformers with capacities of up to 50 KVA; standard and narrow gauge rails in new and used condition; complete, unassembled bridges; and steel and cast iron scrap.
3. Complete lists of the inventory are held by Brecher, who maintains an office in the Hotel Astoria, Vienna I. Most of the items enumerated above were formerly German-owned and were kept as war booty by the Russians in the Wiener-Neudorf area; they are the remains of property from which various Russian missions have made selections. Part of them, however, consists of equipment, still in good condition, which belongs to several USIA factories whose locations are not known. Brecher states that this equipment will be sold to anyone for hard currency. He states further that a purchaser could procure all the listed items at an extremely favorable price amounting to eight to ten per cent of their value (sic). USIA will guarantee safe delivery to any port chosen by the purchaser. Allegedly, USIA wishes to make this sale before the signing of the peace treaty. 25X6

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